

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-20
OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15
/124 W

-----115033 081511Z /75

R 081421Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2881
INFO USDA/WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 18288

USOECD

USDA PASS WITCHER AND BETZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJ: WORKING PARTY NO. 5 (FRUIT AND VEGETABLES)
MEETING, 6-7 JUNE 1978

1. SUMMARY. EUROPEAN SUMMER FRUIT CROP SLIGHTLY LATE WITH FRUIT SIZE SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN NORMAL BUT NEAR NORMAL PRODUCTION. EUROPE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE SURPLUSES. MARKETING TIMETABLES DEEMED USEFUL BY COUNTRIES AND THE TRADE. LABELING OF FRUIT PRODUCED WITH INTEGRATED PRODUCTION METHODS NOT USEFUL ACCORDING TO DELEGATES. WORK ON STUDIES OF PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR TO COMMENCE WITH STUDY ON SUPPLY OF APPLES. END SUMMARY.

2. DUE TO LATE SPRING THROUGHOUT EUROPE, SUMMER FRUIT SUFFERED DELAY IN BLOSSOMING. THIS LATE START HAS BEEN PARTIALLY OFFSET BY RAPIDLY IMPROVED WEATHER,
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THUS THE MARKET SEASON WILL LIKELY BE ON A NEARLY NORMAL SCHEDULE. PRODUCTION OF SUMMER PEARS WILL LIKE-
LY BE HIGHER THAN IN 1977 BUT NOT AS HIGH AS 1976.
ITALY AND GREECE BOTH SUFFERED FROST DAMAGE SO THEIR CROPS WILL BE SOMEWHAT LOWER AND LATER THAN NORMAL.
FRANCE INDICATED EXPORT INTENTIONS OF 35-40 THOUSAND MT OF PEACHES AND NECTARINES. SPAIN WORRIED THAT THIS

WOULD CAUSE EXPORT SURPLUSES.

3. THE LATE SEASON IN EUROPE THEN GOOD WEATHER CAUSED HEAVY BLOSSOM, WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF HOT WEATHER BEFORE HARVEST CAUSING LARGER PROPORTION OF THE PEACH CROP TO BE SMALLER THAN NORMAL FRUIT SIZE. TO MAINTAIN MARKETS, SPAIN AND GREECE ARE FORBIDING MARKETING OF SIZE E. FRANCE PRODUCER ORGANIZATION IS MONITORING SITUATION AND MAY FORBID MARKETING OF SIZE E IF DEEMED NECESSARY. GREECE IS WILLING IF NECESSARY TO INCLUDE SIZE D AND EVEN C.

SWITZERLAND COMPLAINED THAT ITALY DUMPED SMALL PEACHES IN SWISS MARKET IN 1976, AND ASKED IF EC WOULD TAKE POSITIVE ACTION ON FUTURE SURPLUSES. ITALY RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT DUMPING, IT IS MERELY A CASE OF MARKETING COSTS DIFFERING AMONG COUNTRIES. ITALY BLAMED WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR SMALL FRUIT SIZE. SPAIN RESPONDING THAT MAN CAN AFFECT FRUIT SIZE BY DEPRIVING TREES OF BLOSSOMS SAID QUOTE WILL ITALY CONTINUE TO RELY ON GOD FOR SIZE AND BRUSSELS FOR FAVORABLE MARKET RULES? UNQUOTE. ITALY DENIED TOTAL RELIANCE ON GOD.

COMMENT: THROUGHOUT MEETING SPAIN TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT
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PROVIDED BY CAP TO EC COUNTRY PRODUCERS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES RELATIVE TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EC ATTEMPTING TO COMPETE IN THE EC MARKET. MAY BE OF NO SIGNIFICANCE, BUT COULD INDICATE SPAIN PREPARING TO NEGOTIATE STRONGLY ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ISSUES IN ACCESSION DISCUSSIONS.

4. USEFULNESS OF MARKETING TIMETABLE AS PREPARED ON PEACHES FOR THIS MEETING WAS DISCUSSED. SOME COUNTRIES (SPAIN, ITALY) AND THE TRADE THOUGHT IT USEFUL. SECRETARIAT WILL CIRCULATE PAST MARKETING TABLE WORKS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR UPDATING. MEANWHILE COUNTRIES ARE ASKED TO INDICATE BASIS FOR DATA PRESENTED TO SECRETARIAT FOR PEACH MARKETING TABLE FOR THIS MEETING.

ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM AGATT ASAP OF BASIS FOR U.S. DATA ON MARKETING TIMETABLE FOR PEACHES. DATA PROVIDED WAS PERCENTAGE OF PEACH CROP MARKETED AS FOLLOWS: MAY - 7, JUN L/15 - 13, JUN16/30-20, JUL 1/15-14, JUL 16/31-10, AUG 1/15-15, AUG 16/31-13,

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SEP - 7, OCT - 1. WAS THIS BASED ON 1977 ACTUAL, A
3-YEAR AVERAGE, OR OTHER?

5. SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (AGR/WP5(78)4) CONTRIBUTED
BY SWITZERLAND ON INTEGRATED PRODUCTION METHODS
WAS DISCUSSED. FOUR COUNTRIES (DENMARK, FRANCE, UK,
NETHERLANDS) PRESENTED WRITTEN COMMENTS. DISCUSSION
CONCLUDED 1) NO OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF INTEGRATED
PRODUCTION METHODS WAS AGREED, 2) NO OFFICIAL LABELING
OF FRUIT PRODUCED BY INTEGRATED PRODUCTION METHODS
COULD OR SHOULD BE PROMOTED OR SANCTIONED AND 3)
IF PRIVATE LABELING OF SUCH FRUIT IS DONE IT SHOULD
BE CONSIDERED A PRIVATE COMPETITIVE PARAMETER AND MUST
CONFORM TO ANY APPLICABLE NATIONAL CODES.

6. ANNEX II, AGR/WP5(78)5 AND DOC ON PRINCIPAL
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR
(AGR/WP5(78)6) WERE DISCUSSED. LATTER DOCUMENT CALLS
FOR MEMBER COUNTRY INPUT OF SUMMARIES ON SUPPLY OF
APPLES TO BE DISCUSSED AT SEP 78 MEETING.

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ACTION REQUESTED: SUMMARY ON SUPPLY OF APPLES
IN U.S. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS POSED IN AGR/WP5(78)6
SHOULD REACH AGATT BY END AUG 78.

7. SECRETARIAT WANTS TO TAKE U.S. CROP PRODUCTION
REPORT RELEASE DATE INTO CONSIDERATION IN SETTING
DATE FOR NEXT JUNE MEETING. MEETING THIS TIME COULD
HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL IF RESULTS OF 9 JUNE CROP
REPORT HAD BEEN AVAILABLE.

8. NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 12-14 SEP BEGINNING
AT 1500 HRS. AGENDA IS:

1. CROP PROSPECTS FOR APPLES AND PEARS.
 2. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE 1978 MARKET SEASON FOR
SUMMER FRUIT AND TOMATOES.
 3. PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE FRUIT AND
VEGETABLE SECTOR: SUPPLY OF APPLES.
 4. MEDIUM TERM FORECAST: SHOULD THIS WORK
CONTINUE? IF SO, HOW?
 5. INFLUENCE OF STANDARDIZATION: REPORT
FROM THE F&V SCHEME.
 6. OTHER BUSINESS.
- SALZMAN

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